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## United States Senate

July 30, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of the  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

*RE: South Bend Transportation Corporation's Application for Funding from the Bus and Bus Facilities Program (5339(b))*

Dear Secretary Chao:

The South Bend Transportation Corporation, known as TRANSPO, provides fixed route and ADA paratransit services to the residents of South Bend and Mishawaka, Indiana, in north central Indiana, serving a population of nearly 150,000 people. Ridership on TRANSPO has been growing, and it provides approximately 1.7 million passenger trips each year to a diverse set of users including students, seniors and working people. For this reason, I support the TRANSPO application for discretionary funding from the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities program.

TRANSPO is a progressive mass transit agency that is committed to providing safe, dependable transportation to residents, and improving the quality of life for those living in the South Bend-Mishawaka metro area. From its investment in a LEED Platinum Operations facility, to its ongoing fleet conversion to CNG vehicles, TRANSPO is providing modern, comfortable and clean transportation to home, work, school and recreation for riders.

In 2014, TRANSPO began replacing biodiesel vehicles with CNG buses, however, more than 50% of its existing fleet is beyond its useful life. Without replacing aging vehicles, TRANSPO's ability to provide and maintain consistent, reliable service to those who depend upon it for transit to work, school, medical appointments, and more is reduced. Federal funds will be used to replace 12 fixed route buses.

Because this project improves the safety, reliability and sustainability of the TRANSPO fleet and supports education, economic development and quality of life issues, I respectfully request that you give TRANSPO's application full and fair consideration, in a manner consistent with U.S. law and public policy. I would be pleased to be informed when a decision is made. Announcements can be directed to Marianne Black at [Marianne\\_Black@donnelly.senate.gov](mailto:Marianne_Black@donnelly.senate.gov) or by telephone at (317) 226.5555.

Sincerely,



Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator